

E - 109,382

CPYRGHT

FEB 14 1967

L.B. State Students Severed Ties With Unit Aided by CIA

CPYRGHT

By LARRY LYNCH

The National Student Association, revealed as the beneficiary of Central Intelligence Agency financing — is an outcast at California State College, Long Beach.

Student government on the Long Beach campus severed a short-lived tie with NSA because of the national organization's liberal politics.

This local action reinforces what already appears to be an ironic picture.

While NSA was getting money from the CIA — known as a repository of conservative influence in foreign affairs — it was taking an increasingly liberal stand on

international issues. For example, the student group favored the admission of Red China to the U.N. and the cessation of bombing in Vietnam.

At the same time it was trying to rid itself of the CIA influence, according to latest information.

* * * * *

PHIL SHERBURNE, 1965-66 president of the national association and now a law student at Harvard University, told the Independent Press-Telegram he severed all ties with the CIA during his presidency.

Sherburne declined to discuss the CIA connection, however, until he has given the group's advisory council a background statement. He said that the advisory council was unaware of the money coming in from the CIA.

The brief connection with the national association on the Long Beach campus was sponsored by Bob Smith, now student body president.

Smith said today, however, that his role had no political overtones.

"I was the person who proposed affiliation to the student senate in the spring of 1965," Smith, a senior majoring in speech, said. "I brought it up in the senate because of the many advantages the organization offers to affiliate campuses.

"The National Student Association has an extensive research service and acts as a clearing house for the exchange of information be-

tween campuses. This can be a great asset in solving problems. For instance, if a campus back East had found a solution on parking, we could get the details through NSA."

NONETHELESS, last year's student body president, Pat Coulter, initiated a quick withdrawal from the association, Smith said.

"Coulter was very conservative politically and, after attending an NSA meeting in the summer of 1965, he suggested to the senate that we withdraw," Smith recalled. "And it was Larry Peterson, now the president of the Young Republicans on campus, who actually sponsored the motion for withdrawal in the student senate."

Smith adds that since he has become student body president he has made no move to rejoin NSA.

"The people from Los Angeles State, which is active in NSA, have been down here trying to get us to join. However, I've found you can get many of the services the association offers for free, without joining."

INVESTIGATION of the national student group's dependence on the CIA — reported by Ramparts Magazine through promotional advertising for its next issue — has shed some light on the CIA's reasoning. Communist governments often sponsor youth gatherings, and the CIA felt it was important to have American students at these meetings.

NSA did, in fact, send representatives to the meetings. Befitting the recent liberal position of its national assembly on Red China and Vietnam, however, NSA's student leaders say they were trying to divest the organization of need for CIA support.